



INTEGRITY

Integrity is the Legislature's coin of the realm, for it implies that a member is true to his or her word and can be trusted. Which members are regarded as true to their word? Who is seen to have a moral center, a value system, a sense of personal ethics that guides his or her every action? Which members are genuinely respected, even by those who disagree with them on issues and solutions?

SENATE

Charles "Chuck" Poochigian (R-Fresno)

Chuck Poochigian inherited more than a seat in the Senate from his friend, the late Ken Maddy. He also inherited Maddy's mantle as one of the most respected Republicans in Sacramento. Poochigian's reputation has been forged during long service in state government, including stints in the administrations of governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson. He was first elected to the Assembly in 1994, then jumped to the Senate four years later when Maddy was termed out. Termed out of the Senate in 2006, Poochigian remains eligible for one more election to the Assembly.

"He has the Ken Maddy aura: well-respected, honest, hard-working. He's a serious policy guy, not an ideologue."

"He's a lawyer, so he approaches things looking just at the facts. He's not overly partisan; someone both sides can look to. You know he's going to do it the right way."

"They would have made him Republican leader if he wanted it. People trust him, in both caucuses."

Golden Pedigree:

Deirdre Alpert (D-Coronado), John Burton (D-San Francisco), Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), Tom McClintock (R-Thousand Oaks), Bruce McPherson (R-Santa Cruz), Byron Sher (D-Palo Alto)

Previous Winners:

1998: Jack O'Connell (D-Carpinteria)
2000: Deirdre Alpert (D-Coronado)
2002: Deirdre Alpert (D-Coronado)

ASSEMBLY

Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento)

For many observers, Darrell Steinberg embodies ethics in government. A repeat winner in this category, Steinberg was mentioned half again as many times as any other member of his house. Now in his third and final term, the Sacramento lawmaker chairs the Assembly Budget Committee after heading Appropriations two years ago.

"He just leaps to mind. He's straight."

"With Steinberg, you know exactly where you stand, and there's no back biting."

Golden Pedigree:

Jim Dutra (D-Fremont), John Laird (D-Santa Cruz), Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), Juan Vargas (D-San Diego), Lois Wolk (D-Davis)

Previous Winners:

1998: Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica)
2000: Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica)
2002: Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento)

